

Documents on Diplomacy: Lessons

Having an Energy Crisis: The Dilemma of Presidents

- Standard: I. Culture
II. Time, Continuity, and Change
III. People, Places, and Environments
IV. Individual Development and Identity
V. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
VI. Power, Authority, and Governance
VII. Production, Distribution, and Consumption
VIII. Science, Technology, and Society
IX. Global Connections
X. Civic Ideals and Practices
- Grade Level: 9–12
- Objectives: The student will:
- Analyze three presidential speeches about energy issues
 - Compare and contrast the speeches by Ford and Carter
 - Examine the international implications of oil dependency
- Time: 1–2 class periods
- Materials: Documents: 1975 *Energy Independence by 1985*
1977 *The Greatest Challenges of Our Lifetimes*
1979 *A Crisis of Confidence*
- Resources: *Top Consumers and Producers of Oil (2009)*
- Exercises: *Having an Energy Crisis*
Map: World Map Outline
- Procedures:

Activity 1

1. Ask students if the United States is in an energy crisis today.
 - a. When they speak of energy, which type(s) do they mean?
 - b. What impact does oil have on their lives?
 - c. How do students feel about increases in solar power and other alternative sources of energy?
 - d. How many students (or their families) have hybrid cars? How do they feel about this alternative to cars that run solely on gasoline?
2. Project the Real Petroleum Prices from:

<http://www.eia.gov/emeu/steo/realprices/index.cfm>

3. Discuss why there have been highs and lows in specific years.
4. Distribute copies of the speeches, *Energy Independence by 1985* (Gerald Ford), *The Greatest Challenge of Our Lifetimes* (Jimmy Carter), and *A Crisis of Confidence* (Jimmy Carter.)
5. Read the speeches and complete information requested in the exercise, *Having an Energy Crisis: The Dilemma of Presidents*.
6. Discuss the information gathered by students.
 - a. Why is President Ford so angry with Congress?
 - b. Does he refer to partisan politics as is so often the case today? Examples from speech?
 - c. Why does President Carter call the energy crisis the "moral equivalent of war?"
 - d. How do the two speeches by President Carter differ?
 - e. Why is the second speech by President Carter called the "Crisis of Confidence" speech? (For speech analysis, see:
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/general-article/carter-crisis-speech/>)
 - f. Why do you think his "Crisis of Confidence" speech eventually was referred to as his "malaise" speech?
 - g. Compare the three speeches. At the time they were delivered, which one would have had the greatest impact on you? Explain your reaction.

Activity 2

1. Distribute copies of the resource, *Top World Producers and Consumers of Oil, 2009*.
2. Have students analyze the lists. What is the situation today with the United States and importation of oil? Does it appear that matters are significantly different from the 1970s?
3. Provide copies the resource, *World Map Outline*. Have students label the countries from which the United States imports oil.
4. Have students share information and impressions gained from the map.

5. Introduce the role of OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) in the oil market.

- http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/about_us/24.htm
- <http://www.time.com/time/business/article/0,8599,2019120,00.htm>

6. Current members: Algeria, Angola, Ecuador, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela.

7. Have students shade these countries on their maps. Which of these countries provide oil to the United States?

8. Discuss the issues raised by the dependency on oil from a cartel like OPEC. ■